

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.726**

(Doc. No. 005bibl.kmm.doc)

TO:	The Honorable John E. Courson, Chairperson, Senate Committee on Education		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Trey Kannaday		
DATE:	May 29, 2007	SBD:	2007383

AUTHOR:	Senator Grooms	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	59-29-230
SUBJECT:	Old and New Testament Curricula		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 726 provides that the Board of Trustees of any state school district may offer elective courses teaching the history and literature of the Old and New Testament eras. These courses must be taught in an objective manner with no attempt to indoctrinate students. The State Board of Education must develop and adopt curricula, materials, and guidelines for the courses.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Section 59-29-230 (C) of the Bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop and adopt criteria and materials to be used that must be followed by high schools offering the course. SDE estimates non-recurring cost at \$100,000. The Department anticipates having eight teachers spend two weeks during the summer developing the curricula and guidelines. Additional travel, research and course development activities may be necessary.

SDE also anticipates professional development and training cost at \$40,000 statewide for teachers providing the course. However, the Bill does not indicate this cost is an SDE responsibility.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

The impact on the local school districts is at their discretion since offering the course is optional. The cost per high school is estimated at \$13,750 for those schools that choose to hire additional staff or increase compensation for existing staff assuming the additional duty. Textbooks, materials and supplies per high school are estimated at \$1,600 based on a class of twenty students. There are 202 high schools in the state. SDE indicates the number of high schools that already offer some Bible instruction in one form or another is unknown.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget